

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 10 MAR 2006

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Applicant's or agent's file reference BP.MONS.008CWO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
See Form PCT/APEA/416		
International application No. PCT/BE2004/000116	International filing date (day/month/year) 11.08.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 11.08.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G10L11/00		
Applicant FACULTE POLYTECHNIQUE DE MONS ET AL.		
<p>1. This report is the International preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of sheets, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>		
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application 		
Date of submission of the demand 09.06.2005	Date of completion of this report 23.02.2006	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Van Doremalen, J Telephone No. +31 70 340-2198	



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/BE2004/000116

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-11 as originally filed

Claims, Pages

13-14 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

Drawings, Figures

1-7 as originally filed

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

- The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
- This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-11
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-11
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-11
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

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Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: DATABASE INSPEC [Online] THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, STEVENAGE, GB; 1997, Gardner W R ET AL: "Noncausal all-pole modeling of voiced speech" XP000785323 Database accession no. 5489217
- D2: DATABASE INSPEC [Online] THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, STEVENAGE, GB; 1990, JACKSON L B: "Noncausal ARMA modeling of voiced speech" XP002312218 Database accession no. 3517863
- D3: DATABASE INSPEC [Online] THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, STEVENAGE, GB; 1985, REDDY N S ET AL: "High-resolution formant extraction from linear-prediction phase spectra" XP002312216 Database accession no. 2427409

The document D1 was not cited in the international search report. A copy of the document is appended hereto.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (cf. D1 Section III and section VI) a method for estimating the resonance frequencies of a speech signal having both source and filter contributions by either looking at the DPS of the Fourier transform of the signal, after smoothing or taming it to remove spikes, or searching the z-plane for causal and anticausal poles by looking at the complex frequency spectrum and the corresponding DPS of the AR model of the signal.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from D1 in that the intermediate step of determining

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the AR modelling of the signal is skipped by directly investigating the z-transform of the input signal.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as how to simplify the existing methods by removing unnecessary steps.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

Although, once the possibility of the fact that the resonances of an input signal are composed of causal and anticausal contributions is known, it is straightforward and standard mathematical procedure to analyse the origin of those contributions in the complex z-plane by subjecting the signal to a z-transformation, the applicant seems to satisfy a long felt want by overcoming a technical prejudice because the existing relevant art is pointing away from the proposed simplification.

Claims 2 - 11 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.